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Plinkit: National Collaboration With a Local Impact

Darci Hanning
Oregon State Library

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Plinkit

National Collaboration
with a
Local Impact

Overview

- Plinkit (the software)
- Plinkit (the collaborative)
- Extract some pertinent points

Early History

- 2003 LSTA Competitive Grant, Multnomah County Library, ten pilot libraries
- 2005 Transitioned to Oregon State Library
- Software upgrade, content tweaking
- 2006 Plinkit re-launched in Oregon

Why?

- Way-back machine: 2002/2003
- Public Library Websites
 - Non-existent
 - Poor quality
 - Lacking “library” features
- Lack of expertise, time
- Not-so-cooperative IT departments

What?

- Easy-to-maintain
- Pre-built
- Professional-looking
- Free set-up, training, hosting, and support

(Pretty appealing)


Features + Content = Plinkit

- Open source CMS (Plone)
- Workflow
- Roles/Permissions
- WYSIWYG editor, browser-based
- In-place navigation
- Explicit content types

Features + Content = Plinkit

- Pre-populated with useful content
- Well-organized
- Can be used as-is
- Can be modified
- Can be deleted

Features + Content = Plinkit



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Library

About Us

News & Events

eShelf & Research

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Library Use Value Calculator


Hood River County Website

Online Forms

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Interlibrary Loan Request

Welcome to Hood River County Library!



Search the Gorge LINK catalog:

General

GO!

Advanced Search

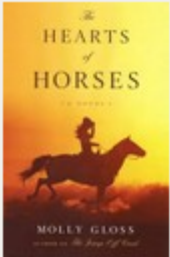
My Library Account

Research Tools

- TumbleBooks:** Animated Talking Picture Books for Kids
- HeritageQuest Online:** Online research for genealogists. Search U.S. Federal Census (1790-1930), books, Persi (TM) and more all from your computer! (Your library card barcode is required for access).
Subscription temporarily suspended due to budget cuts

Library News & Events

Hood River Reads



The 2010 Hood River Reads book is *The Heart of Horses* by Molly Gloss. Gloss is a fourth generation Oregonian who has received several writing awards.
The Heart of Horses is set


locations & hours

Hood River County Library

Parkdale Branch

Cascade Locks Branch

library2go



Downloadable Audiobooks!

February 2010

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Expand?

- Oregon not the only state with this problem
- How to make this available to any library that might want it?

What if...

What if...

we collaborated...

What if...

we collaborated...

to work smarter...

What if...

we collaborated...

to work smarter...

...instead of harder?

Why?

- State libraries, regional systems, and cooperatives similar resource constraints
 - Staff
 - Expertise
 - Funding
- What would happen if staff, expertise, and funding could be pooled?

What?

- Fee-based, membership organization to deploy Plinkit “locally”

Who?

- State Libraries
- Regional Systems
- Cooperative Organizations

How?

- Funding
- Structure
- Process
- Contributions

Funding

- Annual membership fee
- Determined by members
- Started “high”, reduced as more members joined
- Budgetary needs

Structure / Roles

- Steering Committee
- Project Coordinators Group
- Technical Group
- User's Advisory
- Fiscal Sponsor
- Paid Staff (part-time)

Processes

- Consensus
 - Regular teleconferences, mailing lists
- Goals, timeline, priorities
- Budget
- By-laws
- More as needed...

Example

- Customize Plone for Plinkit
 - Technical group: software specifications
 - Project coordinators: review feature list
 - Steering committee approves
 - Technical/PCs agree on process, review proposals (including costs), select vendor, receive initial contract
 - Technical/PCs approve contract, Steering Committee final stamp of approval, fiscal sponsor pays the bills

Contributions

- Marketing and training materials
- Code snippets
- Ideas

Characteristics

- Balancing interdependence and independence
- Consensus: a voice at every level
- Different “local” business models
- Flexibility
- Varying resource levels

Recent Accomplishments

- 2010 Over 250 public libraries in seven states
- Software developed
- Manuals updated
- By-laws in place
- More formal budgeting process
- User's Advisory (local library staff)

Local Impact

- Funding and work gets distributed
 - Software specification/development/testing
 - User's and Administrator's Manuals
 - Technical support
- Local input via User's Advisory group
- Without Collaborative, improvements cost/resource prohibitive

x 9

How?

- Champion to promote the idea/vision
- Willing participants
 - Offer something they need
- Timing

How?

- Baby steps
- Structure
- Growth